

IN CONNECTICUT, THE TEACHERS AND FIRST RESPONDERS BACK TO WORK ACT WILL PROVIDE \$336.3 MILLION IN FUNDS TO SUPPORT UP TO 3,800 EDUCATOR JOBS

The Teachers and First Responders Back to Work Act will save or create nearly 400,000 education jobs through critical investments in the education of our nation's children. Specifically, The Teachers and First Responders Back to Work Act will invest \$30 billion to support state and local efforts to retain, rehire, and hire early childhood, elementary, and secondary educators. Facing a \$2.7 billion projected budget shortfall in 2013, cuts to state and local spending on education will place thousands of Connecticut teacher jobs at risk. The Teachers and First Responders Back to Work Act will provide Connecticut with an additional \$336.3 million in funds that will support 3,800 education jobs, provide a jolt to the state economy, and improve the quality of education. By asking millionaires to pay their fair share, The Teachers and First Responders Back to Work Act will grow the Connecticut economy without adding a dime to the deficit.

In Connecticut, 3,600 Education Jobs Have Been Lost Since 2008. As a result of the most severe fiscal crisis since the Great Depression, Connecticut faced a budget shortfall of \$2.9 billion in 2012, a staggering 14.7% of the state's General Fund. Given the dramatic reduction in state revenue, the state was forced to slash funding for programs and services. As a result, Connecticut schools have cut 3,600 education jobs since 2008. These unprecedented layoffs extended the recession and have slowed the recovery in Connecticut. [Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, [6/17/11](#); Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, [10/7/11](#); U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, accessed on [10/14/11](#)].

Democrats Helped Connecticut Avoid an Even Worse Situation, Preventing Thousands of Potential Layoffs. Without Democratic intervention in 2010, Connecticut school districts would have been forced to lay off as many as 2,180 teachers. Recognizing the financial difficulty that many state and local governments were experiencing, Democrats shepherded the bipartisan Education Jobs Act into law, thereby protecting 1,500 education jobs in Connecticut. Unfortunately, thousands of teacher jobs are still at stake today. [U.S. Department of Education analysis, [8/6/10](#); National Education Association, [5/10](#)]